

## Message Text

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16  
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 /079 W  
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R 260116Z JUN 75  
FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2821  
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
AMCONSUL SYDNEY  
AMCONSUL PERTH  
AMCONSUL BRISBANE  
AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
USMISSION GENEVA  
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E O 11652 N A  
TAGS PINT, AS  
SUBJ: SOUTH AUSTRALIAN STATE-WIDE ELECTION: INTERIM REPORT

REF: MELBOURNE 776

1. CONGEN SPOKE BY TELEPHONE JUNE 24 WITH ROBIN MILLHOUSE, MEMBER OF SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LOWER HOUSE AND ONE OF TWO MEMBERS HOLDING SEATS FOR LIBERAL MOVEMENT WHICH BROKE AWAY UNDER FEDERAL SENATOR STEELE HALL FROM ORTHODOX LIBERAL-COUNTRY PARTY LEAGUE (LCL). THIS EARLY IN CAMPAIGN MILLHOUSE WAS CAUTIOUS BUT HOPED HIS LIBERAL MOVEMENT WOULD DO WELL. HE NOTES THAT PREMIER DON DUNSTAN IS "VERY SHREWD" AND IS ACTING TO GET MAXIMUM BENEFIT FROM TIMING AND SURPRISE OF ELECTION. MILLHOUSE IS HOPING LIBERAL MOVEMENT WILL CAPTURE 20 PERCENT OF POPULAR VOTE  
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WHICH HE THINKS "WILL KNOCK SENSE INTO (ORTHODOX) LIBERALS."

HE CHARACTERIZED ACTION BY LCL WHICH CAUSED ELECTION IN FIRST PLACE AS PICKING "FOOLISH ISSUE." ACCORDING TO MILLHOUSE LIBERAL MOVEMENT IS FIELDING OVER 40 CANDIDATES IN THE 47 LOWER HOUSE CONSTITUTENCIES AND 6 FOR THE 11 UPPER HOUSE RACES.

2. IN ANOTHER TELEPHONE CONVERSATION, ALSO JUNE 24, LCL LEADER DR BRUCE EASTICK URGED CONGEN TO IGNORE NEWSPAPER REPORTINGS OF "EASTERN PRESS" THAT LCL WOULD BE TROUNCED. HE CLAIMED SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PAPERS WERE "MUCH MORE BALANCED," AND PREDICTED THAT HIS LCL WILL "DEFINITELY IMPROVE ITS POSITION IN STATE LEGISLATURE." UNLIKE MOST SOUTH AUSTRALIAN OBSERVERS EASTICK CHARACTERIZED DUNSTAN AS "QUITE IRRATIONAL, ACTING IN MANNER TO WHICH WE ARE USED." EASTICK SAID HE WAS LOOKING FOR FEDERAL LIBERAL LEADERS TO COME INTO STATE RACE BUT HOPED THAT THEIR ASSISTANCE WOULD BE RENDERED TO PARTY AS A WHOLE AND "NOT JUST TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS." HE EVIDENTLY FEARS SPLIT IN SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LIBERAL PARTY MIGHT BE ACCENTED BY FEDERAL LIBERAL PARTY PICKING AND CHOOSING BETWEEN SOME CANDIDATES OF HIS ORTHODOX PARTY AND SOME OF REFORMIST LIBERAL MOVEMENT OF STEELE HALL.

3. EASTICK CLAIMED TO HAVE ON HAND RESULTS OF MARKET RESEARCH WHICH SHOWS HIS LCL AS CORRECT IN ITS ATTEMPT TO ATTACK DUNSTAN GOVT IN STRAIGHT-OUT FIGHT AGAINST "SOCIALISM." COMMENT: REPORTING OFFICERS FEEL THAT EASTICK'S BID FOR STRAIGHT ATTACK ON "SOCIALISM" OF DUNSTAN WILL FAIL, AS DUNSTAN PROGRAMS MORE POPULIST THAN SOCIALIST AND DUNSTAN GOVT QUITE POPULAR WITH MANY SOUTH AUSTRALIANS WHO NOT NORMALLY SYMPATHETIC TO ALP.  
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